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Package Subject: Letter/Rep. Hall/Rwanda U

Item Title: (u) memo

RELEASED IN FULL

Rwanda

Attached is a draft response to a letter from Rep. Tony Hall
urging the establishment of a War Crimes Tribunal for Rwanda.

The letter is for the signature of Ambassador Albright

Please respond with clearance/suggestions by COB Thursday.

Thanks

Ambassador Inderfurth

Ambassador Warner

Frances Zevnig

Carolyn Wilson

Craig Iacchi

by 5:00 pm so
that we can get
changes to Bill Woodward.

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June 16, 1994

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Hon. Tony Hall
Member of Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Hall:

Thank you for your very thoughtful and urgent letter regarding the ongoing tragedy in Rwanda.

The United States, in cooperation with the United Nations and other states, is responding to the violence in Rwanda on four levels.

First, we are contributing to a massive humanitarian relief effort to assist the hundreds of thousands of refugees who have crossed Rwandan borders into Tanzania and other neighboring countries. The United States has contributed \$55 million in food, trucks, blankets and other items to this effort.

Second, we support an expanded UN peacekeeping operation to facilitate the internal delivery of humanitarian relief and provide a measure of protection for threatened civilians. We have agreed to lease 50 armored personnel carriers to the UN to assist this operation and are endeavoring to obtain delivery as soon as possible. At least ten nations have indicated to the UN Secretariat that they would be willing to contribute personnel.

Third, we are supporting diplomatic initiatives aimed at obtaining a ceasefire in hostilities between the Government and rebel forces. We also are in frequent contact with authorities in Burundi to encourage continued cooperation between the principal ethnic minorities in that state.

Fourth, we strongly supported the appointment of a special rapporteur for Rwanda by the UN Human Rights Commission. The Rapporteur is charged with compiling information on violations of human rights and acts which may constitute breaches of international humanitarian law and crimes against humanity. The preliminary report of the Rapporteur is due later this month.

In addition, Spain is currently circulating a draft Security Council resolution--which we strongly support--calling for the creation of a Commission of Experts to investigate and develop evidence with respect to grave violations of international humanitarian law in Rwanda. A similar effort in former Yugoslavia served as a basis for subsequent Council action to establish the war crimes tribunal.

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The Administration has been working to increase United States participation in international legal regimes which protect and promote human rights. At the United Nations, we have placed great emphasis on the work of the UN Human Rights Commission, the Human Rights Center and the newly-established UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. I can assure you that I will continue to do all I can to see that the full measure of the capabilities of these institutions is brought to bear on the situation in Rwanda.

The sickening violence in Rwanda these past two months should serve as an urgent reminder that multilateral organizations are not currently able to satisfy the full range of demands that have been placed upon them, and that there is a high human cost attached to this. The Clinton Administration has been working to reform and strengthen UN peacekeeping, but the UN does not yet have the ability to deploy substantial numbers of peacekeeping forces rapidly in emergency situations. Although we have recommended reforms to prevent lengthy and potentially disastrous delays, we are handicapped by the gap between our UN assessments for peacekeeping and the amounts appropriated for this purpose.

Thank you once again for your letter. I look forward to working with you in the future on these and other matters of mutual concern.

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